

wherein said housing includes a pivot pin extending through said elongated slot for pivotally supporting said actuating member within said housing, said elongated slot enabling said locking pin to be moved linearly within said housing while said actuating member is in said locked position.

8 An article carrier for supporting articles above an outer body surface of vehicle, said article carrier comprising:

a pair of support rails adapted to be secured to said outer body surface generally parallel to one another and in spaced apart relation to one another, each said support rail forming a channel;

at least one cross bar having a length sufficient to span between said support rails, said cross bar having a pair of opposing ends with a locking mechanism disposed at each one of said opposing ends, each said locking mechanism including:

a housing for engaging with said channel of an associated one of said support rails and moveable along said channel, said housing having a recess formed in an outer surface thereof;

an actuating member having a manually engageable lever for facilitating engagement of said actuating member within at least one finger of an individual, a camming surface and an attachment portion;

a pivot pin disposed in said housing for supporting said actuating member for pivotal movement relative to said housing;

said lever being rotatable about said pivot pin, thereby causing rotation of said actuating member without said actuating member interfering with said outer body surface;

a locking pin disposed for linear movement within said housing and including a cam follower surface for engaging with said camming surface of said actuating member, said camming surface operating to urge said locking pin linearly out of engagement with said associated one of said support rails when said actuating member is moved to an unlocked position;

a biasing member for urging said locking pin into locking engagement with said associated one of said support rails when said actuating member is placed in a locked position;

said actuating member being disposed within said recess when in said locked position and said lever projecting outwardly of said housing when said actuating member is in said locked position;

a cable extending within said cross bar and coupled at a first end thereof to said attachment portion of one of said actuating members, and being coupled at a second end thereof to said locking pin of said actuating member at said opposing end of said cross bar; and

wherein movement of one of said actuating members from said locked position to said unlocked position causes a generally simultaneous movement of said locking pin at the other one of said actuating members, thereby disengaging both of said locking pins from their respective said support rails generally simultaneously.